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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. In many power stations of the DDR, one or more boilers are non-functional for lack of boiler tubes and boiler plate. The prescribed general repairs, which were to have shortened overhaul time by a third, are for the most part improvisations. The only tube factory in the DDR, the one at Riesa, is not in a position to produce the necessary high-quality tubes. Boiler plates of the required quality could be obtained in the USSR, but none have appeared.
2. Under these conditions, the responsible functionaries of the electrical net have had no resource but to turn off the current. At present not only is current limited to five hours in the major cities, but also in some of the unimportant production industries.
3. Further limitations on the use of electrical power are prescribed by a ministerial order:
 - a. Coal powdering mills will work only at night, in order to avoid any shortage of power for the steel, iron and rolling mills, and heavy machine industry.
 - b. All boiler-fed pumps and electric pumps are to be replaced by turbo-steam pumps.
 - c. All management officials of the DDR are required to institute examinations and, wherever possible, to replace electrically-operated units such as ovens with gas or steam-operated units.
4. The order placing limitations on coal powdering produces overloading and the danger of explosions. On Saturday, 18 October 1952, there was a heavy explosion in the power station at Klingenberg near Berlin, in which seven persons were badly hurt. The explosion took place in a new powdered coal mill. Part of the boilers and turbines at the place were destroyed in the explosion.

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